

Reference Project

Conservation

Weed Eradication: Little Barrier Island

Location Coastal cliffs & gorges on Little Barrier Island,
Hauraki Gulf

Date Yearly since 1997

Client Department of Conservation

Little Barrier Island is New Zealand's largest unmodified and non browsed native forest. It is one of NZ most important nature reserves.

The discovery of the noxious weeds *Asparagus Scandens*, Mexican Devil and Pampas started one of NZ largest weed eradication programmes.

Abseil Access Ltd were called upon to determine the extent of the problem on the 120m high sea cliffs in 1997. Since then over 5 kms (7 cliffs) have been grid searched mapping all abseil drops, removing weeds and providing detailed inventory of weed locations.

The project present many difficulties including vertical drops of 100m on dangerously loose cliffs, tidal traps, heavy backpacks and impenetrable bush. An extremely high level of outdoor experience and fitness are required for all team members.

The teams ability to tackle unexplored catchments was utilised in the exploration of the Orau and Waitoki gorges in 2002, 2003 and 2004.

This project has shown Abseil Access' long term commitment to the hardest weed eradication programmes.

